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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/494,053	01/28/2000	John Mansbridge	47103-200	2989

7590 03/26/2003

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EXAMINER

AHN, SAM K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2634

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/494,053

Applicant(s)

MANSBRIDGE, JOHN

Examiner

Sam K Ahn

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in United Kingdom on 01/28/99. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 9901900.2 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Drawings

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: it is suggested to change "an input port for receiving receive a ..." to "an input port for receiving a...". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al. ('652) in view of Bergmann et al. ('475).

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 9, Neumann teaches a multiplexing unit (246 in Fig. 14) arranged to receive a plurality of data signals received via photo-resistors (8). The received signals are sent to the multiplexer. Neumann further teaches the multiplexer being controlled by a processor (13). (note col.20, line 25 – col.21, line 47) However, Neumann does not teach data signals conforming to predetermined criteria and transmitting signals to the multiplexer when meeting the criteria. Bergmann teaches in Fig.1, plurality of photodiodes (26) connected to receive signals. The detail of the receiver is further shown in Fig.7 and explained that a comparator (66) is implemented with a threshold in order to filter out signals. The threshold level is set to zero and any signal level above the threshold is set to one. (note col.5, line 65 – col.6, line 9) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Neumann's teaching by incorporating Bergmann's teaching through connecting the thresholds in between the photodiodes (8) and the multiplexer (246) in Fig.14 for the purpose of filtering out signals received and properly recovering received signals, as taught by Bergmann.

Regarding claims 2 and 8, Neumann in view of Bergmann teaches all subject matter claimed, as applied to claim 1 or 7. As previously explained, the predetermined criterion is a predetermined threshold.

Regarding claim 3, Neumann in view of Bergmann teaches all subject matter claimed, as applied to claim 2. Bergmann further discloses the means as a comparator. (note col.6, lines 34-48)

Regarding claim 4, Neumann in view of Bergmann teaches all subject matter claimed, as applied to claim 1. Neumann further teaches processing means including means for receiving an external control signal. The processor (13) is also shown in figure 5 where it is connected to a central unit via UART.

Regarding claim 5, Neumann in view of Bergmann teaches all subject matter claimed, as applied to claim 1. Neumann teaches processor (13), main function for data processing, communicating with an external unit (17). Therefore, it is inherent that the communications between the two are in relation to processing of data.

Regarding claim 6, Neumann in view of Bergmann teaches all subject matter claimed, as applied to claim 1. Neumann and Bergmann teach an apparatus used in a photodiode array processing unit.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following are cited as being relevant to subject matter of data filtering.

Schwartz ('451)

Tazaki et al. ('734)

Bae ('286)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam K Ahn whose telephone number is 703-305-0754. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am - 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 703-305-4714. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

SKA
March 17, 2003


STEPHEN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600